

'Fabric Of Freedom' Takes Freedoms Foundation Award

ATLANTA (BP) — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's musical drama, "The Fabric of Freedom," has received the Valley Forge Honor Certificate Award from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pa.

The drama, commissioned by the board in observance of the national Bicentennial, was performed by student summer missionaries of the Home Mission Board in 20 different areas, including Walt Disney World. The troupe traveled over 5,000 miles and made 64 appearances during the

summer months of 1976. T. R. Parlier, who coordinated the board's Bicentennial project, will accept the award for the Home Mission Board on April 8. U. S. Sen. Herman E. Talmadge (D-Ga.) will make the presentation for the Freedoms Foundation in Atlanta.

The lyrics and book for the musical drama were written by Ed Seabough of the Home Mission Board and the music by Bill Cates, a composer from Nashville, Tenn.

The drama opened before 900 young women at "Kaleidoscope '76," a meeting in Virginia Beach, Va., last June, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union for Baptist Young Women.

Seven scenes — from Valley Forge to present-day Philadelphia — comprised the musical, one of eight Bicentennial projects commissioned by the board.

The cast of seven students included: Brad Cleveland of Ball, La.; Charles Gilliland of Louisville, Ky.; Shelton and Carol Harden of Louisville, Ky.; Javier Hernandez of San Antonio, Tex.; Patti McConnell of Atlanta, Cynthia Morris of Greensboro, N. C., and Debbie Pritchett of Hull, Ga. Two technicians, Mark Sandlin of Brownwood, Tex., and Mike Power of Waco, Tex., accompanied the troupe. Tom Bowles of Waco served as director-manager.

Angola Baptists Want Missionaries To Return

LUANDA, Angola (BP) — Angolan Baptists, in annual session here, expressed desire for the return of Southern Baptist missionaries, who left this strife-torn southern African country in August, 1975, on the strong recommendation of the U. S. Consul General.

In November of that year Angola was granted its independence by Portugal, but since that time the missionaries have not been permitted to return as residents.

Baptist work continues in four major cities and districts of the country, and 41 delegates met in Luanda for the annual Baptist Convention of Angola. Five men were ordained to the ministry during the meeting.

Curtis Dixon, Southern Baptist missionary chairman of the Angola Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries), has made five trips back into Angola since Baptist missionaries evacuated the country — two of the trips before the country became independent and three since that time. He and his wife are living temporarily in Lisbon, Portugal, while seeking to obtain permission to re-enter Angola as residents.

He said many of the pastors, deacons, and laymen of Angola are interested in studying through an extension program. Dixon helps to provide the materials needed for this type of training.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison H. Pike are the other missionary couple assigned

to Angola. They are on furlough in the United States. Others who were in Angola have been reassigned to other missions in Southern Africa.

CP Giving 10% Ahead

NASHVILLE (BP) — Strong giving in March elevated the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program unified budget to \$25,853,928 through the first six months of the 1976-77 fiscal year — 10.07 percent ahead of the 1975-76 pace.

Total giving at the midway point amounts to \$53,838,127, including the \$25,853,928 in undesignated Cooperative Program funds and another \$27,984,199 in contributions designated to specific causes. Total giving is running 9.84 percent ahead of over \$49 million given at the same point last year.

In March, according to figures released by the financial planning office of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, Cooperative Program gifts totaled \$4,112,675 — a strong 15.73 percent ahead of \$3,553,717 given last March. Total gifts for the month amounted to \$10,193,847, a 22.48 percent increase over \$8,322,775 given last March.



"My Wife Said Just Take One Bite" Deacon chairman Doug Robbins spoons out the banana pudding to Bill Mitchell, pastor of Rawls Springs Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, at a church-wide fellowship honoring his ten years as pastor. (See accompanying story page 3).

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Children's Village To Buy Farrow Manor Property

The completion of negotiations for the purchase of the lands and buildings of Farrow Manor, Inc., by the Baptist Children's Village has been announced by W. Kelly Pyron of Natchez, president of the Village Board of Trustees, and Paul N. Nunnery, executive director of the Village.

Farrow Manor, Inc., is a private, non-profit corporation with offices in Senatobia. The Baptist Children's Village is the official child care agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

According to Pyron and Nunnery, both The Village and Farrow Manor, Inc. have executed a written contract for the sale of the affected real estate and for "the release by each party to the contract of any and all suits, claims, and demands which either party may envision, entertain, or hold."

Under the terms of the contract, Farrow Manor, Inc. is selling "all of its right, title, and interest in and to 186 acres of land and improvements" located in the Bett Community near Independence in Tate County, for a consideration said to be in the amount of \$45,000 in cash, plus the assumption by The Children's Village of all unpaid bond and interest coupons issued by Farrow Manor, Inc. at a time when the latter corporation was known as Mississippi Child Care Center, Inc.

Pyron and Nunnery have stated that The Baptist Children's Village has completed appropriate financial arrangements to "pay off and satisfy in full all such bonds and coupons, with interest accumulated to April 1, 1977, after delivery of the deed by Farrow Manor, Inc., and as rapidly thereafter as the owners and holders of such bonds and interest coupons surrender the same to the Trustee named in the bond issues."

The purchase of the Tate County lands, upon which The Village has operated its branch, Farrow Manor Campus, since September of 1975, represents what Pyron and Nunnery have described as "an amicable and equitable settlement and resolution of all issues and differences between The

Baptist Children's Village and Farrow Manor, Inc." Heretofore, The Village has operated its "country-life campus" under a lease of 55 acres of the Farrow Manor lands which provided a 15-year primary term and three five-year options to renew. Throughout 1976, alleged issues and differences between the parties to the lease agreement resulted in a lengthy and detailed series of negotiations, culminating in the announced purchase agreement, which was authorized by unanimous action by the November, 1976, sessions of Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Concurrent with The Village announcement of purchase, both parties

to the contract release the following joint statement:

"Baptist Children's Village and Farrow Manor, through their respective Boards, announce that arrangements between them have been concluded to assure the continuance of the child care services being provided by Baptist Children's Village on the Farrow Manor campus in Tate County, Mississippi, since 1975.

"All matters pertaining to the child care facility are now the exclusive responsibility of Baptist Children's Village and, as such, the Village solicits the continuance of financial support from the public and particularly of the

church groups for the mission of providing much needed care to children."

In commenting upon the purchase of the Farrow Manor lands and buildings, Nunnery, The Village's executive director stated:

"We who personally bear the awesome responsibility and authority for the sensitive and compassionate mission which is our Mississippi Baptist child care ministry, are profoundly and eternally grateful to so many men of good will, representing both parties, who have, in good faith, invested so much time in the resolution of this matter. We are even more grateful to

(Continued on page 2)

Summers Cites New ASV As Best Bible Translation

A study of what the Bible says held the interest of some 650 Mississippi Baptists last week as they attended the second annual Mississippi Baptist Bible Conference in Jackson.

Of particular interest was an evaluation of several translations and versions of the Bible during a panel discussion for that purpose.

The theme of the conference was "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart." Those attending general sessions heard five speakers present addresses concerning what the Bible says. Former Mississippian Carl E. Bates, now pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C., spoke on the greatness of God. The subject of Robert E. Naylor, president of Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, was the experience of reconciliation. Ray Summers, chairman of the Department of Religion at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, discussed rewards. Clyde T. Francisco, John R. Sampey professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., spoke on the beginnings. Another former Mississippian, Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary, spoke on Christ the Son of God.

Other features of the youth conference were drama by Cross - Section of Mississippi College and music by Harvest of Mississippi College.

Bryant Cummings, director of the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was director of the conference.

In addition to the general sessions and the Youth Conference there were 30 smaller conferences on Bible content.

During the panel discussion on Bible translations and versions the New

A youth Bible conference was conducted on Monday and Tuesday nights for young people 12 to 17 years of age. Larry Salter, consultant in the Sunday School Department, was in charge of this conference. Speakers were Tommy Baddley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Brandon; Wayne Barber, associate pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson; Gene Henderson, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus; and Donn Poole, minister of youth at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson. Some 175 young people participated in this conference and were a part of the total registration.

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American Standard Version received comment from Summers as being as good a translation of the entire Bible as can be found. He said the earlier American Standard Version was an excellent translation but the sentence structure was awkward. The new version, he said, is also accurate with good sentence structure. Its only problem is the use of Americanisms, he added.

He credited the New International Version of the New Testament as being possibly the best translation of just the New Testament. He said conservative scholars around the world had tried to stay true to the text and theological thought and had tried to stay away from Americanisms. He reported that it is true in translation and interpretation.

Naylor said the New English Version purports to be an authorized version and claims to be a new rendering of Hebrew and Greek. He added that it used the British idiom in its presentation. The Living Bible, he added, is a paraphrase and claims no more than that. He called it a translation of a

(Continued on page 3)



During the Easter season and as a reminder of the significance of proper stewardship of a person's life, the Southern Baptist Convention has designated April as Life Commitment Month and April 24 as Life Commitment and Church Vocations Sunday. The special Sunday is designed to help Christians assess their commitment and consider the options of serving through a church vocation if God leads them.

Youth Sunday School Volunteer Workshop Banquet Features Clinton's Baker

The 1977 Mississippi Workshop on Youth Sunday School Work will convene April 29-30 at Jackson's Holiday Inn North.

Sponsored by the MBCB's Sunday School Department, the workshop will feature specialists in youth work including: Janet Burton of Austin, Tex., author of Guiding Youth; B.

ing for an opening banquet will be Bill Baker, pastor of First Baptist Church, Clinton, who will be telling homespun stories, injecting humor and music into the evening.

The workshop designed primarily for church volunteer leadership opens with the banquet at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 29, and ends at 2:30 on Saturday, April 30.

Topics of discussion include "The Spiritual Development of a Leader of Youth," "How to Conduct a Weekly Worker's Meeting," "Bible Learning Activities," and "Youth / Parent /

Worker Relationship."

Reservations for the conference itself, the banquet (which costs \$5.75) and for rooms at Holiday Inn, North (at a reduced rate), should be made through the office of Larry Salter, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205. Salter is coordinating the workshop. (Clip and mail reservation form, page 3.)

Vietnam Missions Future

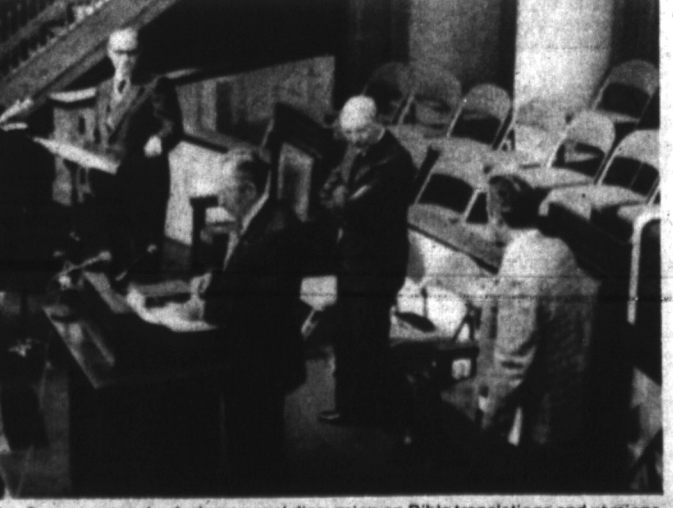
RICHMOND (BP) — Does Vietnam's willingness to return the bodies of a dozen Americans who had been listed as missing in action signal the beginning of a new opportunity to have missions work in that country?

William R. Wakefield, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for Southeast Asia, thinks not.

"I do not see the returning of the bodies as an encouragement toward the hope of Vietnam being opened to missionaries again," he said. "There doesn't appear to be an opportunity under the present government for the return of missionaries."



J. Dean, of Mobile, Ala., author of Teaching Youth in Sunday School; and Barbara Kent, author of youth materials for the Baptist Sunday School Board. Also on the program will be Dan Kent, husband of Barbara and professor of religion at Wayland Baptist College in Plainview, Tex., and entertain-



Ray Summers speaks during a panel discussion on Bible translations and versions.

Presnall H. Wood Elected Editor Of Baptist Standard

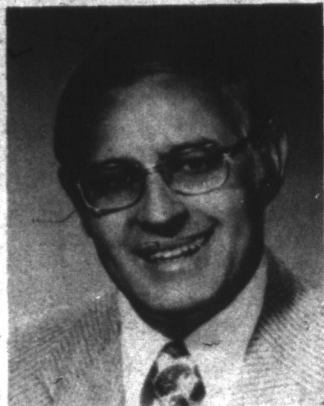
DALLAS (BP) — Presnall H. Wood, pastor of Park Place Baptist Church in Houston, has been elected editor of the Baptist Standard at a special meeting of the Texas Baptist newspaper's board of directors here.

Wood will succeed John J. Hurt, who is retiring after almost 11 years as editor of the 376,000 circulation weekly, largest of 33 state Baptist news publications. Hurt will reach the mandatory retirement age of 68 in April.

Virgil B. Henson, chairman of the Standard directors, said Wood will become editor-elect on May 15 and spend two months traveling about the state. He will assume the editorship July 15.

Jim Lindsey of College Station, Tex., chairman of the board of directors' search committee, explained that over the last six months the committee had considered more than 60 persons and had conducted 10 interviews. Wood served as a member of the search committee but resigned, Lindsey said, when told he was under consideration.

Wood, who will be 45 on May 7, has been a member of the Standard's board of directors since 1969 and was chairman of the board in 1973-74. He will be the 11th editor to serve the Baptist Standard since its founding in 1889 and the youngest since E. C. Routh became editor in 1914 at the age of 40.



Presnall H. Wood, 45, pastor of Park Place Baptist Church in Houston, Tex., will become editor of the 376,000 circulation Baptist Standard, Texas Baptists' newsweekly, on July 15. Wood will succeed John J. Hurt who is retiring after almost 11 years as editor. A native of Vernon, Tex., Wood is chairman of the Baptist Sunday School Board trustees and served 1973-74 as chairman of the Standard's board of directors. He will be the 11th editor since the paper's founding in 1888. The Baptist Standard is the largest of the 33 Southern Baptist state news publications. (BP) Photo

He is the author with Floyd W. Thatcher, of "Prophets With Pens," the history of the Baptist Standard, published in 1969 and based on Wood's doctoral dissertation at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

In the foreword to the book, Wood said, "The Baptist Standard was coming into my home when I was born, and I cannot remember any time when we were without its weekly visits."

Wood was born and reared in Vernon, Tex., where E. S. James, editor of the Standard from 1954-66, was pastor of First Baptist Church. James baptized him, performed his marriage ceremony and presided at his ordination service.

While writing his dissertation, Wood read every available issue of the Standard since its founding and came "to a new awareness of its power and influence."

He is graduate of Baylor University Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Seminary. He earned a bachelor of divinity degree at the seminary in 1956 and the doctor of theology degree in 1964.

Wood served as pastor of King and Purnella Baptist Churches in Coryell County, Tex., 1953-56; First Baptist Church, Goldthwaite, Tex., 1956-61; and Crestview Baptist Church, Midland, Tex., from 1961-68. He has been pastor of Park Place Baptist Church in Houston for the last nine years.

He is currently chairman of the board of trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and has served in several denominational posts. They include moderator of the Mills and Midland Baptist Associations, trustee of Hendrick Memorial Hospital in Abilene, a member of the Texas Baptist Executive Board, and member of the advisory committee of the Center for Counseling for Union Baptist Association.

He is immediate past president of the Texas alumni association of Southwestern Seminary.

Wood is married to the former Joyce Middlebrook of Vernon. They have two sons—Jeffery, a freshman at Baylor, and Jed, an eighth grader.

The Missions Task Money's Proper Place

By John Alexander, Director, Stewardship Department, MBCB

Have you ever heard it said, "We're spiritual, we don't talk about money at our church"? This well-intentioned statement is more gnostic than Christian. In the gnostic religion, a man can in no sense be a steward of material things for his salvation is dependent upon separation from his natural body as well as the physical universe. Remember that when you hear someone complaining, "I'll certainly be glad when the preacher finishes preaching about money and gets back to the Bible," the individual is revealing a lack of real Bible knowledge as well as a genuine sympathy for gnosticism.

Man, as well as every material thing, has origin, sustenance, and purpose in Christ. Paul wrote the Colossian letter to deal with the heresy of gnostic teaching. Its corrupting influence is still with us today.

In Christ's view, the material and spiritual are not two different kingdoms, but one kingdom of which he is Lord.

To the gnostic, all material things are evil. In Hindu and Buddhist teaching, material things have no value. In contrast to the Hindu and Buddhist view, to many Western men, the only thing of ultimate value is the material. To the communist, the material world is the supreme reality.

The view of Christian man is that material things are not to become idols; and are not to be hoarded. They do not possess ultimate value, but are not to be rejected.

The Christian view of material things is completely different from the world's view. To the Christian, purpose for material things is found in Christ. Paul said, "...all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Col. 1:15-17).

The Christian view recognizes man as the responsible manager of that which he receives. God cautions man in Deut. 8:17-18, "Beware lest you say in your heart My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth. You should remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth."

Idolatry is a present-day problem as much as it ever was. If you doubt this, just watch the reaction of some church members when the church asks them to give up material wealth for the work of the Kingdom of God. They surrender their idols with much yelling and screaming!!! The Christian, and all he possesses, belongs to Christ. He who gave us all who have has the perfect right to ask us to surrender any or all of our material possessions for his Kingdom. He also has the right to ask us to give up our lives!

The member of the congregation who grumbles about his pastor's emphasis on giving is revealing his idolatrous attitude toward his money. Some in the churches have mistakenly come to look on temporary holdings as if they were real riches. They are trying to get more out of this world than there is in it. They are trying to satisfy their spiritual thirst at a temporal fountain and they drink again and again only to go away disappointed. They are torn between trying to serve God and mammon (money). Their indecision divides the mind and multiplies anxiety. As the higher peaks of joy and Christian contentment beckon them, they are seemingly bound in the lowlands of frustration and inordinate love of money.

Only when money is assigned its proper place, a servant role, can Christian man escape the clutches of greed and all the frustrations that accompany it. No preacher is declaring the whole counsel of God unless he is preaching on man's use of material things. Two of every three sermons delivered by Jesus dealt with the problem and its solution.

Paul pleaded with young Timothy in I Tim. 6:17-19 to "charge them that are rich in this present world, that they be not highminded, nor have their hopes set on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, that they be ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on the life which is life indeed."

James used rather strong words in speaking to the wicked rich in James 5:1-6, "Come now, ye rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and your silver are rusted; and their rust shall be for a testimony against you, and shall eat your flesh as fire. Ye have laid up your treasure in the last days. Behold, the hire of the laborers who mowed your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth out; and the cries of them that reaped have entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabbath. Ye have lived delicately on the earth, and taken your pleasure; ye have nourished your hearts in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned, ye have killed the righteous ones; he doth not resist you."

The answer to this present and perplexing problem of one's attitude toward money is given by Paul in I Tim. 6:6. "But godliness with contentment is great gain; for we brought nothing into the world, and neither can we carry anything out; but having food and covering we shall be therewith content."

Farrow Manor

(Continued from page 1)

the thousands of Mississippi Baptists and friends of children who have stood with the Village and its boys and girls, patiently and loyally, throughout these lengthy negotiations and amid the sometimes confusing circumstances attendant thereupon. We honor, with humility and thanksgiving, the name of Miss Ada Farrow of Bett, whose unselfish gift of these lands, in dedication to the needs of homeless, neglected, and dependent children, has made possible our ambitious expansion to a branch campus with a new dimension and resource in group, child care. We

pledge to her and to all Village friends our renewed efforts to offer a ministry and deliver a service to children which is distinctly Christian in character and which will be worthy of Mrs. Farrow's dream. Above all, we are grateful to God for the privileged responsibility which is ours as we undertake another bold step of faith in the continued expansion and improvement of a mission to children in the name of the 'real love of children.' Our staff and children need the prayers and financial support of their friends as never before, and we are confident that the need will be filled."

Two From Mississippi

The Centurymen Return From 15-Day Mission Tour Of Brazil.

Two Jackson men have returned from the capital of Brazil to the capital of Mississippi after a 15-day mission tour of Brazil that included singing to standing room only audiences in temperatures that soared to 115 degrees.

The men — both members of "The Centurymen," the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission's men's singing group — are Don Bennett, minister of music at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, and Jim Raymick, minister of music at Parkway Church, Jackson.

The mission tour was co-sponsored by the Radio and Television Commission and the Foreign Mission Board, SBC. Making the tour were 46 Centurymen, 11 wives, and four members of the Radio-TV Commission production staff.

The group sang concerts in eight cities before an estimated total crowd of 33,000 people, plus an unestimated television audience.

"In Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, the concerts were given television coverage which not only promoted the tour but gave additional exposure to Baptist work in that area," said Malcolm Edwards, the Commission's assistant vice president of program music, and business manager of "The Centurymen."

In Sao Paulo Buryl Red Day was observed with a plaque for the composer who is also director of "The Centurymen." Red, owner of Triune Music Company with offices in New York and Nashville, is music consultant for the Radio-TV Commission.

"The Brazilians were warm and generous with their welcome," Edwards said. "They were hesitant to applaud in their churches and we sang in several church auditoriums. At first, when they didn't applaud, it caused a little concern because the singers appreciate feedback from the audience."

"Then the congregation was asked to sing for the visitors. In Brazil everyone in the congregation sings, and everyone sings very loudly. It was so thrilling the Centurymen burst into spontaneous applause. That broke the ice and the Brazilians then applauded us."

There were high moments — when students presented roses to the women in the group, when the crowds were so receptive that encore after encore was required — and there were hot moments.

"One of the Sunday afternoons a concert was scheduled as part of an evangelistic rally at the First Baptist Church of Sao Goncalo, across the bay from Rio," said Edwards.

"The large airy auditorium seats about 1500. Attendance was conservatively estimated at 2000. All possible standing room was taken. The temperature was 105 degrees, the program was 45 minutes late starting and it lasted two hours."

"One of the Baptist missionaries told us later the temperature had really risen to 115 degrees — the hottest day in Brazil in 60 years. We were glad we didn't know it at the time. But the numerous decisions for Christ as a result of the rally made it all worthwhile."

And the remark that one of the missionaries made to Buryl Red also made the tour worthwhile: "I think this tour has moved our music missions program forward by at least five years," he said.

Before the 15-day tour ended the men had presented concerts in Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Volta Redonda, Curitiba, Sao Paulo, Campinas, and Brasilia.

The singing group was organized in 1969 by the Radio and Television Commission to provide music for its radio and television productions. "The Centurymen" have appeared several times on national television, made numerous other concert appearances, and been featured on several religious albums on the CHM label.

They are heard regularly on "NightSong," a radio program pro-

Cox Elected President Of Baptist PR Association

CLARKSVILLE, Ind. (BP) — James H. Cox Sr., associate editor of the Western Recorder, state newspaper for Kentucky Baptists, was elected national president of the Baptist Public Relations Association (BPRA) during the organization's annual meeting here.

Cox, of Middletown, Ky., succeeds Stanton Nash, assistant to the president at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., who will serve as awards chairman for the 1978 BPRA meeting, Feb. 14-16, Scottsdale, Ariz. BPRA will meet simultaneously with the annual national meetings of the Southern Baptist Press Association and the organization of state Baptist executive secretaries.

Other BPRA officers are Richard M. Styles, public relations consultant, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., membership vice president; Paul G. Barnes, vice president for development, Grand Canyon College, Phoenix, Ariz., program vice president; Donald S. Hepburn, director of public relations, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, treasurer; Patsey Winfrey, director of public relations, Belmont College, Nashville, secretary; and Leonard E. Hill, managing editor, Baptist Program, Southern Baptist Executive Committee, Nashville, newsletter editor.

C. Thomas Newsom, director of public relations at Grand Canyon College, was named local arrangements chairman for the 1978 BPRA meeting.

duced and syndicated by the Commission on 69 radio stations across the country.

McDowell Road, Jackson, Slates April World Missions Conference

Christian service for medical personnel will be emphasized Friday, April 15, at 7 p.m. at McDowell Road Church, Jackson, as a part of the church's World Missions Conference, April 13-17. Physicians, nurses, and technicians interested in missions work, regardless of denomination, are invited. Dr. Oliver Harper, medical missionary serving at the Kediri Baptist Hospital, East Java, Indonesia, will be the speaker.

On Saturday night at 7 p.m., Keith Parks, Missions Support director for Foreign Missions Board, will speak and be available to answer questions about the various opportunities for service overseas in Baptist work. Parks served as missionary and director of the Southeast Asia work before coming to his present position.

The World Missions Conference at McDowell Road Church is to begin Wednesday, April 13, and end Sunday night, April 17. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday services are at 7 p.m. Sunday services are at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Other speakers for the week will be Owen Cooper, Baptist layman and a past president of Southern Baptist Convention (Wed.); Gray Allison, president of Mid-America Baptist Seminary, Memphis (Wed.); Frank Black, Memphis, Brotherhood Commission (Thurs.); Jim McAtee, missionary to Indonesia (Thurs. and Sun.); Calvin Fox, missionary to Philippines (Fri and Sun.); Daniel Sanchez, missionary to Mexico (Sun.)

Mississippi Media Centers Earn Top Rating

NASHVILLE — A total of two Mississippi church media centers were awarded certificates of distinguished recognition by the Baptist Sunday School Board's church library department recently for achieving required standards of excellence.

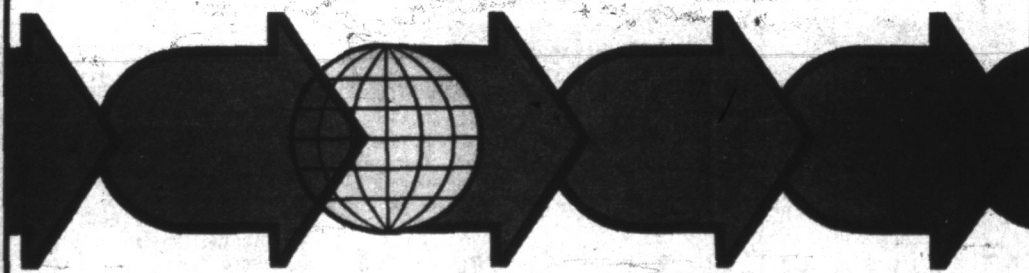
The Mississippi churches are First Church, Coldwater, Bess Boone, director; and First Church, Rosedale, Mrs. Myrtis Tabb, director.

In addition to the distinguished recognition, which is the highest rating possible, 10 merit and five advanced recognitions were presented to Mississippi church media centers this year.

To complete the Sunday night program, the outstanding missionary film "Peace Child" will be shown. There will be booths and exhibits of

mission activities. Edwina Robinson will have an American Bible Society exhibit. W. C. Davis will have a World Home Bible League display.

BOLD BELIEVERS IN GIVING



Goal: Each church enlarging the giving base by increasing the number of committed stewards.

Date: April 1, 1976 through March 31, 1979

Responsibility: Pastor and Church Stewardship Chairman

Description: "Bold Believers in Giving" is a stewardship emphasis designed to lead church members to a new boldness in giving and living. The emphasis is based on the conviction that today's followers of Christ are called to a bold commitment in Christian life style through a fresh acceptance of Christ's control in all of life and through the adoption of a standard of living that conforms to his teachings.

Christians can express their faith through the proper use of material things, and the critical, spiritual needs of people demand a bold response from God's people. Key phrases in understanding and interpreting this emphasis are Christian life style, ministering church, and growing commitment.

Attention will be focused on the biblical basis for bold giving and living. A major part of this biblical thrust will be an examination of and challenge to Christian giving. A variety of personal and group stewardship studies will be featured and encouraged. Associational conferences will provide resources for helping churches develop plans and goals for stewardship growth.

A church involved in this project will fulfill its responsibility to teach biblical stewardship and provide its members with opportunities for making significant stewardship decisions. Budget development and subscription will be occasions for highlighting the ministries of the church and calling for personal commitments of giving to make these ministries possible.

Resources: The following resources may be ordered from the SBC Stewardship Services, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tennessee 37234:

The Forward Program of Church Finance Packet (FB-B), \$6.25	Simplified Church Budget Development and Promotion Packet (SD-B), \$1.75
Tithers Commitment Packet (TC-B) \$3.75	Activity Guide Packet (AG-B), \$4.60; Ministry Action Budgeting (FB-34), \$.55
Stewardship Revival Packet (SR-B), \$3.75	SBC Stewardship Services Catalogue, Free

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(Optional "Sunday Afterglow" on Sunday morning, 8:30-9:30)
\$9.50 registration fee includes fellowship luncheon and dinner on Saturday.
Make room reservation with Holiday Inn Northeast, Box 5497, Meridian, MS 39301. Indicate Singles Retreat. Rates (per day) are \$16 for single room; \$21 for two, three or four in a room.
Sponsored by Christian Action Commission and Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Mississippi Baptist Convention Programs, Conferences, Projects. . .

EVANGELISM

North Mississippi Area Meetings Set

Area Evangelism Conferences for North Mississippi will be held in Cleveland, Oxford, and West Point, on April 11, 12, and 14, respectively.

Host churches for the conferences which are aimed not only at pastors, but at laymen, laywomen, and young people, are FBC, Cleveland; FBC, Oxford; and West End Baptist Church, West Point.

W. Douglas Hudgins, executive secretary emeritus of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and pastor emeritus of FBC, Jackson, will lead in Bible studies at all three locations.

Roy Collum, director of the MBCB Evangelism Department which sponsors the events, will detail "Growth

Evangelism in Your Church," including CARE revival emphases, preparation for revivals and crusades, and witnessing preparation for adults and youth, at all three places.

Also at the three churches, Lewis Sewell, pastor of FBC, Oxford, will lead a session on "Power for Growth," and New Albany music evangelist, Richard Smith, will lead in special music.

Other host pastors are Macklyn Hubbell, FBC, Cleveland; and Ray Walters, West End Baptist Church, West Point.

Three more area evangelism conferences have been scheduled in May for South Mississippi.

CHURCH ADMIN.

Day Care Clinic Comes To Jackson

Sarah Harrell, pre-school director for Briarwood Drive Baptist Church, Jackson, will lead a Day Care Clinic in Jackson, on April 23.

The clinic will take place at Alta Woods Baptist Church, 168 Colonial Drive, Jackson, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include conference time with specialists in day care work.

Gay Chance, director of the Creative Learning Center for FBC, Starkville, will discuss management functions

and public relations theories with administrators. Other speakers include Bob Couch, Sunday School consultant for Alabama Baptists; Jean Prather, teacher of the gifted child in Jackson public schools; Wilma Lowe, pre-school and day care director of Ridgecrest church, Jackson; and Bobbie Van Etta, children's educational director, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

A registration fee of \$3.50 includes cost of the noon meal and refreshments. The clinic is sponsored by the MBCB Department of Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries, Leon Emery, director.

Church Secretaries Meet For Development



Hoskins



Hubbell

A church secretary specialist, a Mississippi pastor, and several secretaries will be featured speakers during a Secretaries' Conference at the Baptist Building in Jackson, May 2-3.

Lucy Hoskins, consultant in Church Administration Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, will deal with the personal development of a secretary.

Macklyn Hubbell, pastor of FBC, Cleveland, will speak on staff relations and the secretary's role as a counselor.

Other speakers for the conference which is sponsored by the MBCB's Church Administration-Pastoral Services Department, include, Betty

Bingham, secretary in the MBCB Evangelism Department, Ruth Keyes, secretary for Calvary Baptist Church in Itta Bena, Esteen Quinn, secretary to Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer for the MBCB, Mary Ray, secretary to the Director of Missions for Rankin Association, and Jeanette Flowers, secretary at FBC, Jackson.

The only cost for the secretary to attend will be travel, motel and meals. A pre-registration will be necessary by April 28, to the Church Administration Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

Special sessions include how-to's on setting up and maintaining a filing system, mail-outs and bulletins, and programs and brochures.

The conference begins at 12:30 Monday, and ends Tuesday morning at 11:45.

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — For the first year since 1972, serious reported crime showed no increase in 1976, according to preliminary annual Crime Index figures of the FBI.



Clyde T. Francisco speaks during a panel discussion on charismatics.



The Youth Conference attracted 175 young people.

Bible Conference

(Continued from page 1)

translation which explains the Bible in everybody English and is simple and easy to follow.

Francisco discussed the Good News Bible and said it used a vocabulary meaningful to persons with an eighth grade education. It takes on the nature of a paraphrase, he said, in leaving out some theological words; and some choices were made in the "direction of the translator's bias." It goes to newer theories on occasion, he continued, rather than taking traditional views. He indicated that his favorite translation is the Jerusalem Bible, so called because it was done by a group of French Roman Catholics working in Jerusalem. It was first translated into French and later into English. Francisco said they refused to let any bias interfere when they translated from Hebrew and Greek.

A Southern Baptist translator,

Robert Bratcher, prepared the basic draft for the Good News Bible.

The panel discussion on charismatics was developed along a question and answer sessions between the audience and the panel. The consensus remained that there is no question but that biblical practices are to be followed in relation to tongue-speaking. There are widely varying interpretations, however, of what the biblical practices were, it was pointed out.

Joe Tuten was host pastor this year as the conference met at Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson. Next year's conference will be at First Baptist Church, Jackson, on March 20 and 21. The major speakers will be Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Texas; and the music director will be Larry Black, minister of music at First Church, Jackson.



Martha Branham was the soloist



Cecil Harper substituted the first day.

Workshop Includes Program Planning

Leadership from each of Mississippi's 76 associations are invited to the Annual Associational Planning Workshop on May 17, at Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson.

This leadership, generally known as the associational council, includes: director of missions, moderator, clerk, Sunday School director, Church Training director, Church Music director, WMU director, Brotherhood director, Missions Committee chairman, Stewardship Committee chairman, and Evangelism Committee chairman.

Separate conferences will be provided for each of the eleven positions on the council.

The workshop, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is being coordinated by Chester Vaughn, program director for the MBCB. Expenses for the meeting will be provided by the MBCB, including lunch during the meeting, which begins at

9:30 a.m., dismissing at 4 p.m.

The workshop will include acquainting leaders with suggested programs for the churches for 1977-78 and with associational projects which might be used to assist churches in carrying out these programs. One-third of the time will be set aside for associational councils to meet together for preliminary planning.

Baptists Receive Free Time In Mexico City, Mex.

MEXICO CITY, Mexico — Baptist radio programs are being broadcast free in Mexico's three largest cities.

The program "Did You Know?" is on the air in Mexico City, Monterrey and most recently Guadalajara.

"The manager of a radio station in Guadalajara heard the program on a station in Monterrey and liked it so much he contacted us to ask if his station could have it also," said David P. Daniell, Southern Baptist representative to Mexico.

The same thing happened in Saltillo and Monclova, Coahuila, according to Daniell.

"Did You Know?" is a daily five-minute educational program that seeks to communicate Christian principles in light of surprising facts about the world we live in.

MAN and BOY RALLIES

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| April 14—West Heights Church, Pontotoc | — 7:00 p.m. |
| April 15—First Church, Philadelphia | — 7:00 p.m. |
| April 21—First Church, Grenada | — 7:00 p.m. |
| April 22—First Church, Brandon | — 7:00 p.m. |
| April 28—Easthaven Church, Brookhaven | — 7:00 p.m. |
| April 29—Highland Church, Laurel | — 7:00 p.m. |

Supper will be served at host churches.
Cost per person \$1.50.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE HOW MANY WILL ATTEND FROM YOUR CHURCH.

INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER:

R. T. Buckley, Missionary to Bangladesh

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| George McFadin, | Minister of Music
First Church, Oxford |
| Pat Tidmore, | Minister of Music
Magnolia Street Church, Laurel |
| Freddie Odom, | Weight Lifter, Hattiesburg |

HOST PASTORS:

- Jack Gregory, West Heights Church, Pontotoc
Eugene H. Dobbs, First Church, Philadelphia
John Lee Taylor, First Church, Grenada
W. T. Baddley, First Church, Brandon
Robert M. Hanvey, Easthaven Church, Brookhaven
Ralph Graves, Highland Church, Laurel

BROTHERHOOD DEPARTMENT:

Paul Harrell, Director
(All entertainment personalities will not appear at each church.)



Buckley



McFadin



Tidmore



Odom



Harrell

"My Wife Said Just Take One Bite"

(See picture, Page 1.)

The youth of Rawls Springs Baptist Church participated in Youth Week from March 13-20, 1977. The week-long event began with the traditional presentation of a Bible to the Youth Pastor, David Mitchell, symbolizing the leadership of the church by the youth. In charge of all aspects of church activities, the youth led church services, taught both Sunday School and Training Union classes, and enjoyed fellowship to gether. The final Sunday night service was an old-fashioned sing service. Church members formed groups and in various combinations of duets, quartets and ensembles sang many of everyone's favorites. For the occasion, most members wore appropriate "old-fashioned" clothing. Bonnets, long dresses, jeans and cover-alls were in abundance.

A church-wide fellowship following the service provided a perfect setting for a surprise reception in honor of the pastor, Bill Mitchell, and his family. The week marked the tenth year of service by Mitchell and his wife Betty, who has served the church as Music Director during these years. The Mitchells and their children, Beth, David and Bobby were given many gifts by the members and various classes, including a Grandfather's Clock from the church as a whole. The pastor received what seemed to be a

year's supply of his favorite dessert — banana pudding. A cake bearing figures representing each member of the family was given to Mrs. Mitchell.

Under Mitchell's leadership the church membership has doubled, two building projects have been completed, 251 people have been baptized, extensive improvements on church property have been made, additional property has been purchased, and an Assistant Pastor and church secretary have been added to the staff. The

church budget has increased from \$16,000 to \$63,000. Substantial increases have also been seen in all phases of mission giving. Mitchell is active in associational work serving as its Brotherhood Director and Moderator. He has served on the Board of Ministerial Education for the Mississippi Baptist Convention. He is also active in community organizations including the Lion's Club and the Volunteer Fire Department of Rawls Springs.

RESERVATION 1977 MISSISSIPPI WORKSHOP ON YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK HOLIDAY INN—NORTH, JACKSON

NAME(S) _____

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

It Is Easter Again

Two years ago, on Easter Sunday morning, the writer stood before the open tomb at Jerusalem and joined a crowd of Christians from all over the world in singing the simple, moving "Alleluia."

The editor of this publication is basically a simple person. Sophistication is not one of his long suits. To be standing at that spot on that particular morning was a very moving experience.

Through the years Baptists have celebrated every Sunday as resurrection day. When we come together in worship services every Sunday morning we are proclaiming to the world that "He Is Risen!"

We join with the entire Christian world, however, in choosing a particular day on which to place particular emphasis on that triumph over death; and that day is Easter Sunday.

Since Easter moves around on the

calendar, it could not possibly be determined to be the day on which Christ arose. But the timing makes no difference. Once each year the total Christian population of the entire world joins together to say, "He did rise up from the dead. He took upon Himself the sins of all the world, and He suffered the death that was the penalty for those sins. Then he arose from that death in triumph, and now no one has to suffer that eternal punishment for sin if he will just believe."

And the entire world of non-Christians has to take notice. Any time all of the Christians can get together in one accord about anything, the world has to take notice. If indeed we could implement our belief in the risen Christ through a concerted effort to convince the world, the results would be startling.

Our human frailties will continue to

hamper our efforts. Through ages past we have vowed to redouble our witness to the world, but instead it goes on about the same as before. From time to time someone with intense dedication to the task ignites a super witnessing effort, but the movement fades away as the initiator moves off the scene.

Now it is Easter Sunday again. It is not likely that it is the exact anniversary of the resurrection, but it can represent a starting point.

The world is not going to be won, if it is won, by tremendous mass movements. It will be by the individual Christian going to one neighbor and then to another and sharing the love of Christ. Such a simple method as this could sweep the world in a generation, for the new Christians would also become witnesses if they saw it in the lives of others.

Is it not time to begin?

It Will Be Different

Late last month the writer attended a futuristic conference at Ridgecrest Conference Center sponsored by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Actually, this conference was supposed to be the management week for the Sunday School Board; but the program became so powerful that it was decided to invite outsiders to participate during the week. As it turned out, of the 250 or so persons attending, about 40 per cent came from outside the Sunday School Board.

It is true that powerful speakers were on hand. The Sunday School Board's own Grady Cohen spoke as did the SBC Executive Committee program planning secretary Albert McClellan. The Christian Life Commission furnished Harry Hollis, and Texas pastor Bill Pinson was there. Two other big guns were Edward Lindaman, college president and former aerospace executive, and Alvin Toffler, author of *Future Shock*.

All of the speakers were very informative. None of them purported to know what is going to happen in the

future, but all had one message in common: the rate of change is accelerating at a rapid pace, and even the immediate future will present changes that are undreamed of now.

Lindaman said that in planning for the future one must be aware of planning's origin in hope and of the projections of hope. He added, "If planning puts itself in the place of hope, it loses itself." He spoke from a Christian viewpoint. Toffler spoke from a humanist viewpoint, and his advice was whereas in the past during the industrial revolution the power structures dealt with mechanics and organizations, in the future the meaningful accomplishments must be made by dealing with people.

The writer took copious notes, to state it mildly, and not nearly all points are to be covered. Lindaman, however, pled with his listeners to help create a desire to envision a future for the mission of Christ, to get a glimpse of the perspective of where society now is and some possible trends, and to come up with an enhanced understanding of the power that resides in a community of believers.

As the future rushes in upon us, we could well be called upon to face questions that we had just as soon didn't present themselves. One of these, perhaps, surfaced during a report session following small group sessions that were to give thought to future possibilities. Almost all of the groups reported back that ordination of women will be a growing thing in Southern Baptist life and to a great extent for the pastorate.

All agreed that no one knows for sure what the future holds. All agreed, also, that it will be different.

Why this prediction on women pastors was so prevalent is hard to imagine with six seminaries reporting record enrollments, and most of them being men. It was there, nevertheless. It must be recalled, however, that 60 per cent of those present were Sunday School Board management personnel. They, evidently, controlled the reports to some extent. Were they just daydreaming for the fun of it; did they know something the rest of us are still wondering about; or do they set the pattern for future trends?

Who knows?

Bible Conference Good

The attendance for this year's Mississippi Baptist Bible Conference was not high, but the content was excellent. The attendance was not particularly bad; but with such an opportunity, one would suppose it would be much greater.

Program personalities included two Southern Baptist seminary presidents, a well-known seminary professor, and a well-known college professor who was just as well known as a professor at two seminaries before he returned to his alma mater as head of

the religion department. Also there was a former Mississippian who is a past president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In addition there were 30 individual conferences conducted by Mississippians except for three.

The writer did not have an opportunity to attend any of the individual conferences because the conference coincided with the production time for the *Baptist Record*. He did attend all of the general sessions, however, and they were rich. The men who spoke are

masters at what they are doing and in the presentation of it. What they are doing is working in the context of the study and interpretation of the Bible.

It was too good an opportunity to miss. This was only the second such conference. There will be another one next year. Only as long as their worth is recognized and they are well attended will the conferences continue. These are two rich, rewarding days that are well worth the effort to attend. Mark down the dates of March 20-21 at First Baptist Church, Jackson, for 1978.

Guest Editorial

The Lord's Mysterious Ways

Adversity can be a blessing. The word of God says so and experience verifies it.

The Lord works in mysterious and unexpected ways to turn adversities into blessings. An example of special meaning to this writer is the letter which appears on the bottom of this page.

The letter was not only unsolicited but was so unexpected that it had to be read twice before its contents really came through. As a denominational worker I have been blessed with many good things but nothing exactly like this. I have received letters like this responding to needs of needy individuals and churches, Baptist children's

homes, Baptist hospitals and even schools but never the state paper.

Few Kentucky Baptists get excited about the state paper unless some editorial or article produces resentment. It is sort of taken for granted that it will always be around to provide Baptist information and interpretation for those who are interested. Some Baptists even believe that, though the state paper is all right, it is not a necessary item in the church budget. Those who do not read *Western Recorder* don't realize that many important things they hear from the pulpit, in Sunday school and in other places about what Baptists are planning and doing come from *Western Recorder*.

Fortunately, some pastors and church leaders do realize the indispensable contribution made by the state paper. Dr. Roy Boatwright, former Sunday school director for Kentucky Baptists and now interim pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Bremen, is one of these. This man probably has worked directly with more Baptist church leaders in Kentucky than any man alive and has found *Western Recorder* to be the most valuable of all channels of Baptist communication.

His successor in Sunday school leadership, Fred Halbrooks, has the same conviction. He says when he asks those in the many conferences, clinics and other such meetings he conducts where they first learned about something new in Baptist Sunday school work, almost all say they saw it first in *Western Recorder*.

The leaders of Kentucky Baptists decided many years ago that the convention had to have a widely circu-

lated publication to inform and challenge Baptists in the pews in cooperative endeavors. And so *Western Recorder* was bought in 1919. Until then *Western Recorder* was privately owned and thus was not under the directors of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Before 1919 Kentucky Baptist leaders had started a small promotional kind of communication bulletin used mainly to announce denominational meetings and plans. This, of course, was merged with *Western Recorder* and for these many years Baptists in Kentucky have looked to the state paper each week to keep them reliably informed.

Every state Baptist convention has a state paper which it depends upon as the major communication link with its constituents. All these conventions provide part or all the production costs of these papers in order to encourage churches to send the paper to every family in the congregation.

With the help of the state convention the cost of *Western Recorder* is easily within the reach of every church for all its families. Only \$2.50 per year per family or 5c per issue put *Western Recorder* into the mailbox of every family in the church 50 times a year.

There is no doubt about it. A state convention must stay in touch with as many Baptists as possible. So far the state paper is the most effective method for doing this. Closed circuit television or other media methods might replace the state Baptist paper sometime in the future but until then *Western Recorder* will perform this ministry for Baptists in Kentucky. Keeping Baptists informed is righty

Book Reviews

THERE IS HOPE by Lucille Gardner (David C. Cook, paper, \$1.95, 154 pp.) Sharon was 15 when an auto accident suddenly turned her into a mental and physical infant. This is a mother's amazing story of the miracle that made her whole.

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE, THE JIMMIE DAVIS STORY by Gus Well (Word Books, 187 pp., \$7.95) This "affectionate biography" is three stories in one — the story of the teacher and educator; the story of the musician, the man who composed the popular song, "You Are My Sunshine"; and the story of the man who went from a sharecropper's shack in Louisiana to the Governor's Mansion — twice. Dr. R. G. Lee praised the book highly and added, "I have known this great and good man personally. All who read this story will enrich their lives as they are made to think of a man who experienced the biblical truth: 'no good thing will God withhold from them who walk uprightly.'"

I'M A GOOD MAN, BUT... by Fritz Ridenour (Gospel Light, paper, \$1.45, 165 pp.) The author uses "Peanuts" cartoons by Charles Schulz to get across his key points in each chapter. Slanted toward the high schooler, the book helps the young person take a look at self, friends, and "the authorities" (adults). The purpose is to grapple with the problem suggested in the title.

GOD OF THE UNTOUCHABLES by Dave Hunt (Fleming H. Revell, \$5.95, 143 pp.) This is remarkable, true story of a high-caste Hindu who became a Christian disciple. Tormented by deep personal problems no guru, no mantra could solve, Gupta turned to Jesus Christ. He eventually founded the famed Hindustan Bible College in India, where countless numbers of East Indians are brought to Christ each year. Dave Hunt, the author, is recognized as an authority on religions of the East and their philosophies.

On The Moral Scene

JUVENILE CRIMINALS — Juvenile criminality is a crisis of staggering dimensions with profound implications for our Nation's future. The statistics concerning this category of crime offenders are grim. In 1975, one out of every four persons arrested in the United States was under 18 years of age. Individuals in this age group comprised 23 percent of all arrests for violent crimes, 43 percent of all arrests for serious crimes, and almost half of all arrests for property crimes. One of every ten persons arrested for murder had not reached the age of 18. During the period 1960-75, arrests of these young offenders for serious crimes increased 144 percent. (By Clarence M. Kelley in FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, November 1976)

PRESENT-DAY MILITARY DESERTERS — After the end of the Vietnamese war was followed by the all-volunteer force, the Pentagon hoped that the desertion problem would disappear, but the latest figures released by the Defense Department indicate the problem not only persists but, in some respects, is worse than it was during the Indochina conflict. In 1976 the Navy suffered the highest desertion rate in its history. Among enlisted men the rate was 24.8%, 2% more than in 1975 and more than double the highest Navy rate during the Vietnamese war. The Marine desertion rate was still higher — 69.2% per 1,000 men. The 1976 Army rate was 17.7%, and the Air Force, as always, was lowest with 1.2% per 1,000 men. Even during the Vietnamese war the Air Force rate never exceeded 2.8%. (The Tennessean, January, 1977)

the responsibility of local churches. And since the convention's contribution enables churches to provide the state paper for so little, it seems shortsighted and false economy not to provide *Western Recorder* for every resident family.

C. R. Daley, Editor
Western December, Kentucky

The Letter

We have read your articles on the financial needs of the *Recorder*. The membership of our church wishes to express to you and your co-workers our deep love and appreciation for you and your work. We are enclosing a check payable to *Western Recorder* in the amount of \$200.00 as a token of our appreciation.

Many people depend upon the *Recorder* for thorough and complete news and information of Kentucky Baptists' life and work.

May the Lord continue to bless you and yours as you continue to honor him and serve our churches.

OUR HUMBLE THANKS

The Bethlehem Baptist Church, Bremen, Ky., Muhlenburg Association, has *Western Recorder* in its budget.



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Our jet left Hong Kong at 4 p.m. We ran our watches back an hour because of a change in time zones, and arrived in Taipei at 4 p.m. The green mountainous island of Taiwan was, as its name implies, "a dais rising from the sea."

It was 1970 and we were on our way to the Baptist World Alliance in Tokyo. I remember the faces of several Jacksonians who were on that jet — Dr. Joe Odle, Dr. David Grant, Dr. and Mrs. T. B. Brown, Waudine Storey, Pat Elkins, Curtis Dickerson, Mrs. Ann Alexander, Dr. Clyde Bryan.

For dinner at the Hotel First, my friends from Pensacola, Joan Peterson and Sarah Andrews, and I decided to have fried rice, coffee, and ice cream with fresh red cherries. The price was \$97.00 (\$100 in Taiwan was then equal to \$2.50 in U.S.).

Next day we visited the beautiful Baptist seminary (see picture on page 5), the Baptist Book Store and Grace Baptist Church, escorted by Missionary Carl Hunker.

Through a maze of motorcycles and automobiles, past palm trees and walled gardens, past bamboo bridges, tall buildings, and rice paddies, we drove to the National Palace Museum at Waishuangchi in suburban Taipei. The museum has an exhibition that I imagine can scarcely be equaled anywhere. It holds 250,000 or more of China's greatest art treasures — paintings, calligraphy, porcelains, bronzes, jades and other articles originally in the collections of Chinese emperors. Around 3,000 of these are on display at a single time.

I was especially interested in the collection of objects carved from jade: a priceless decorative screen of jade panels framed with teak wood; a grasshopper posing on a Chinese cabbage (this is probably one of the most famous jade pieces in the collection); an edible gourd; an ornamental fish; a 2,000-year-old black jade shepherd and goat; and many others.

The museum guide said that jade had been used for many purposes, such as tools and weapons, bells and other musical instruments, and in rituals and ceremonies. In powdered form mixed with water it has been

used as medicine, once believed to prevent fatigue. Its primary purpose, though, has been decorative. I remember that my friend, May Ying (now Mrs. C. F. Lew of Los Angeles) who worked with me in the library at Southwestern Seminary, had some exquisite jade jewelry that she had brought to the States from her native China.

True jade is smooth, and is one of the toughest stones known, ranking not far behind the diamond. I have a folder that describes its colors: "They range from off-white to dark green. During the Tsin Dynasty (265-420 A.D.) the Jade Records classified jade into nine colors and the mixes—black as in deep water; blue as in indigo foam, green as in fresh moss, emerald as in kingfisher's feathers, yellow as in steamed chestnuts, vermilion as in cinnabar, purple as in congealed blood, jet black as in ink, white as mutton fat, and mottled with red and white streaks."

In the museum I heard that, in ancient times, when a child was born he would be given a piece of jade, perhaps a necklace or ring. This was his birth jade. When couples married they would exchange their birth jades, signifying, "I give my life to you."

I was not given a birth jade, and I have never exchanged a birth jade for another person's birth jade. But I know someone who gave his life for mine.

The path to Golgotha was rocky, though the rocks were not of jade. On that hilltop Christ died for the little boy chasing butterflies in the Botanical Garden in Taipei. He died for the bent old woman selling handmade necklaces in front of the Hotel First. He died for the student in the Taiwan Seminary. He died for the pilot of the jet plane. And he died for me.

The stone in the doorway of the garden tomb was not as tough as jade or diamonds. Had it been, it would have made no difference. The angel still would have rolled it away so that the Risen Lord might come forth.

The wonder of Easter is this, that He who arose and still lives, made a promise: "Because I live, ye shall live also."

Letters To The Editor

Centennial Series

Dear Bro. McGregor:
Enclosed you will find the amount of fifty cents for the centennial issues of the *Baptist Record*.

Also I want to take this means to tell you may our Lord continue to bless and keep you all close to Him while we are apart but we are close in our hearts. Keep up the good work on putting out such a God bless newspaper. It's like the Bible. It's indescribable good and gives strength to the weak and keeps you from stumbling and being faint-hearted. It helps us toward the prize of the high calling of God through His Son as we walk toward "the Golden Streets" to the New Jerusalem and through reading life gets sweeter than the day before.

Mrs. Mary V. Stephens
Jackson

Human Rights

Dear Editor:
"Because we are free," said President Carter in his Inaugural Address, "we can never be indifferent to the fate of freedom elsewhere." The new Administration has been quick to underscore this spirit as human rights issues have presented themselves.

Thus, State Department charges that Czechoslovakia had breached the Helsinki agreement by harassing human rights activists, and the Department's later warning to the Soviet Union that trying to silence Andrei D. Sakharov, the Soviet political dissident, would violate "accepted international standards of human rights," should have come as no surprise to either friends or foes of individual freedom, here and abroad.

All too often, idealistic statements

Mullins Biography

Dear Sir:
In writing a biography of Dr. and Mrs. Edgar Young Mullins, I need the help of all Baptists who are interested in preserving a very important part of our history. On behalf of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, I would like to ask all who may have books written by Dr. or Mrs. Mullins, or any other material bearing upon their leadership and service among us to send whatever materials they are willing to give to the seminary to Dr. Ronald F. Deering, Librarian, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40206.

Any items of historical interest, or expressions of appreciation or quotations from speeches or articles by either of them, please send directly to me at the address given below.

Any help given in this very significant project will have great meaning for Baptists in all time to come.

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SCRAPBOOK



Barabbas

The mob yelled, "We want Barabbas!"
Three times Pilate told them
No fault in Jesus he could find.
They shouted still louder, "Condemn!"

Between two thieves they crucified
The One who knew no sin.
In shame and agony He died
Where old Barabbas should have been.

Then Barabbas went proclaiming
"He died instead of me!"
Are not we all Barabbases?
Christ gave His life to set us free.

—Victoria Singley

If people were more zealous and less
jealous, this world would be a better
place in which to live.



In all places then, and in all seasons, flowers expand their light and soul-like wings, teaching us, by most persuasive reasons, how akin they are to human things. And with child-like credulous affection we behold their tender buds expand; emblems of our own great resurrection, emblems of the bright and better land — Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (RNS Photo by Krolan Benfield)

For A Purpose

God allowed bureaucracy,
the Senhedrin,
Golgotha,
the cross and the tomb;
but on the third day

He smiled upon the world
with a bright Easter morning,
that all might know
the best was yet to come.

—Hafford Berry

Resurrection

As spring comes
with the promise
of Easter
and resurging life
"Speak to the earth
and let it teach you."
Look at a purple crocus
blooming close to the ground,
see the winter-bare pear tree
flowering white.
Lift your eyes

to the red maple's flame;
Watch daffodils
nod their golden heads.
Feel warm sunshine
on your face;
dig in the soil,
plant some mustard seed.
Become aware of small things,
simple things that grow;
sense resurrection
in each new leaf.

—Eunice Barnes

Follow Now As Then

If I had walked two thousand years ago
beside a sea called Galilee,
I'd have pushed through many throngs, I know,
the Master Jesus Christ to see.

I'd have asked Him for a blessing then,
to renew my wasted soul.
He'd have healed me without reprimand
and made my life quite whole.

Is my ageless guilt or my redemption less
that I was not here
when Earth killed God yet could not contain Him?
We all saw Him reappear.

His gracious Spirit hovers near us now,
kindly to soothe our fears away.
I've paced through many dreams to follow Him
and I shall talk to Him today.

—Violet Reeves Tackett

Revival Dates

Blue Springs Church: April 10-15; Ralph Culp, evangelist, pastor of Shiloh Church, Hamilton, Alabama; Roy Caldwell, leading in music; services 7 p.m.; J. A. Blunt, pastor.

First, Indianola: James Fancher and Richard Smith, revival team; many renewed commitments; six professions of faith; four transfer of membership; Dan Morton, pastor.

First Church, Lauderdale: April 10-15; CARE revival; Frank Harmon, Magnolia Street Church, Laurel, evangelist; Tommy Harrison, First Church, Lauderdale, music director; services at 7 p.m.; Jerry Bishop, pastor.

Hanging Moss Church, Jackson: April 17-22; 7 p.m.; special music every night; Olyn Roberts, evangelist.

Cliff Temple Church, Natchez: April 17-22; Family Life Enrichment revival; J. Clark Hensley, executive director, Christian Action Commission, bringing the messages; Calvin Herring, Cliff Temple, minister of music, directing the singing; services 7:30 p.m.; Bryant Hazlip, pastor.

Ridgecrest Church, Hattiesburg: April 10-15; James Yates, pastor Bellevue Church, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Ford Broome, music

evangelist; Sunday sunrise service 5:30, Sunday through Friday night services 7:00; Odell Tebo, pastor.

First Church, Ellisville: April 17-20 (7 a.m. and 7 p.m.) Bob Marsh, pastor, First Church, Bothan, Ala. evangelist; Billy Vaughan, minister of music, First Church, Laurel; singer; W. C. Burns, pastor.

Jayess Church: April 15-17; Sam Davidson, pastor of First, Peterman, Alabama, evangelist; Byron Cutrer, minister of music at First, Magnolia, guest musician; 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday; 7 p.m. Fri. and Sat.; Mike Mitchell, pastor.

Vision is definitely affected by glasses, especially after they have been filled and emptied several times.

Paul Church To Have Easter TV Program

Paul Baptist Church of Tallahatchie Association will have a special Easter Program on WABG, channel 6, Thursday night April 7 from 8:00 - 8:30 with the Good News Trio and pastor Eli Wiltshire, preaching.



A Woman's World Reaches Far
Beyond the Ironing Board

—Wilda Fancher

I wonder if I would have gone to the garden tomb that lonely morning long ago. . . Wonder if I would have carried sweet-smelling things for the Lord's body. . . Wonder if I would have already thrown up my hands in disappointment.

If I had gone, I wonder what I would have thought when I saw that He was gone. . . Wonder if it would have taken me long to recognize His voice? Wonder what I would have thought about the whole thing. . . if I had been alive then.

I wonder if I would have been faithful enough to keep on believing in Him. Wonder if I would have thought, This is ridiculous to think Jesus really came to life again. . . nobody ever has before. . . He surely couldn't have. . .

Wonder what I would have said to Him. . . would he have seen doubt in my eyes? Would He have even bothered with me?

My wonderings could go on all day and night, but they give way to reality: I'm alive now, not then. There are gardens for me to enter every day. There are stones that are rolled away every day. His voice speaks to me every day. He looks into my face every day. He does bother with me every day. Many times, even, every day.

And then I wonder about today, and I come back to that same reality: He is alive today, too. Somehow, I just can't get away from it, and I'm glad. It is bone-deep with me. This assurance of His presence—in a garden, in a room, in a car, in the night, in the day, during noon. And I'm glad.

I just wish everyone felt it. That is exactly what He hoped his followers would feel, and that's why He gave us the opportunity to share Him with the world.

And that's what Easter is about.

Madrid (RNS) — In what was seen here as the first shot in a church-state fight over legalization of divorce in Spain, a Spanish Catholic bishop issued a pastoral letter strongly underlining the indissolubility of marriage and rejecting the state's competence to dissolve any marriage.

Thomastown Calls Retired Chaplain

Albert V. Clark has accepted the position as pastor of Thomastown Church, Leake County.

He has retired from the U. S. Army where he served for 20 years as a Southern Baptist chaplain under the direction of the Home Mission Board.

Clark received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mississippi College and Master of Theology degree from New Orleans Seminary. He retired from the Army with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

He and his wife, Virginia, are living on the field at Thomastown.

Centerville Pianist Dies

Mrs. Pearson (Lucille Sumrall) Ellzey, retired school teacher and pianist at Centerville Church, Jones County, for 31 years, died on February 14 after a brief illness.

A memorial service was held the following Sunday in which a plaque in her memory was placed on the piano. Gerald K. Gordon is the pastor.

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Spring In Taiwan

With azaleas in full bloom, the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary, Taipei, is beautiful. The seminary will celebrate its 25th anniversary with graduation ceremonies this spring. A total of 199 students have graduated since its founding in 1952. (FMB photo)

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5
Thursday, April 7, 1977

Atlanta (RNS) — Dr. James T. Laney, dean of the Candler School of Theology since 1969, has been named president of the United Methodist Affiliated Emory University here.

The Church Missions Committee Manual



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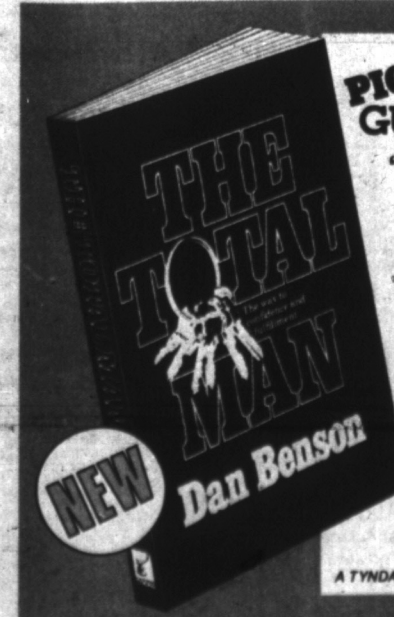
Baptist Book Stores

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Wednesday, April 13 through Sunday, April 17, 1977

Wednesday, April 13	7:00 p.m.	Owen Cooper Yazoo City, Baptist Layman Dr. Gray Allison President of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary
Thursday, April 14	7:00 p.m.	Mr. Frank Black Memphis, Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission Rev. Jim McAtee Missionary to Indonesia
Friday, April 15	7:00 p.m.	Dr. Oliver Harper Medical Missionary, Kediri Baptist Hospital, Indonesia Rev. Calvin Fox Missionary to Philippines
Saturday, April 16	7:00 p.m.	Dr. Keith Parks Director Mission Support Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board
Sunday, April 17	11:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Morning Service Evening Service
Sunday guests bringing messages will be: Mr. Daniel Sanchez Rev. Jim McAtee Rev. Calvin Fox Missionary-Mexico Missionary-Indonesia Missionary-Philippines		

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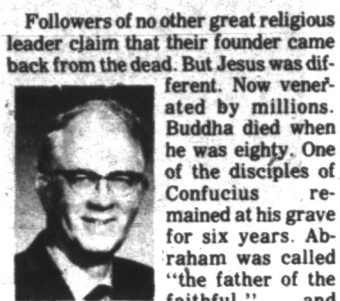
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Sunday School Lesson: International

He Lives!

By Wm. J. Falls
Mark 15:42 to 16:8;
Luke 23:50 to 24:12



Followers of no other great religious leader claim that their founder came back from the dead. But Jesus was different. Now venerated by millions. Buddha died when he was eighty. One of the disciples of Confucius remained at his grave for six years. Abraham was called "the father of the faithful," and

Moses led the Chosen People in their great Exodus experience, but Jesus have never taught that those great leaders overcame death. But Jesus was different. His execution was the result in part of his confrontation with leaders of his own religion. He did not come to destroy the law, but he denounced restrictive traditions. In his death the establishment seemed to have won, but God was writing another chapter.

The Lesson Explained
The Borrowed Tomb Of Joseph
(15:42-46)

Because the sabbath began at sundown and the day before the sabbath was known as the day of preparation, it could have been about 4 p.m. when Joseph went to Pilate to request the body of Jesus. Joseph was a respected member of the Sanhedrin; Matthew says he was rich. Both Mark and Luke say he "waited for the kingdom of God," and Luke says he did not vote with the council against Jesus. After Pilate learned that Jesus was already dead, he gave Joseph permission to take the body.

Perhaps because the time was too short before the sabbath would begin, Joseph just wrapped Jesus' body in a large sheet of fine linen and laid him in a tomb. There was no time for the customary burial treatment of the body. John and Luke say the tomb was new and unused, and Matthew says it really was Joseph's own tomb. It had been so constructed that a large stone could be rolled to close the entrance. So Jesus was buried.

The Devotion Of The Women
(15:47 to 16:3)

Verses 40-41 mention by name three women followers who watched the crucifixion "afar off" and then they

refer to "many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem." Two of the ones named earlier watched the men carry the shrouded body into the tomb. They waited through the sabbath, and then when the sun went down, they bought "sweet spices" — perhaps perfumed ointments — to anoint the body. Then "very early" — probably before sunrise — the three of them started out from the tomb. As they walked, the questions uppermost in their minds was: "Who can help us roll the stone away?" But it did not interfere with their last act of loving devotion to their Master.

The Amazing News
Of The Angel
(16:4-8)

When the women came in sight of the tomb, they saw that the huge stone had already been moved. As they walked into the dark tomb, they became aware of a young man sitting on the right side, perhaps opposite the sledge where Jesus' body had been laid. They were terrified by that figure in the long white garment, but he reassured them immediately. First, he knew why they had come and whom they were seeking; second, he declared that Jesus was not there and showed them where he had been laid. So, this being was neither a stranger nor an enemy so far as Jesus was concerned. Then he asked them to tell his disciples — and Peter — that Jesus would meet them in Galilee as he had promised in 14:28.

Port Gibson Calls Pastor

Clayton Bath has accepted the pastorate of the Port Gibson Church, and will begin his ministry there on April 17. He goes from First Church, Tchula, where he has been pastor for about three years.

A native of Colorado, he came to Mississippi following completion of his studies at New Orleans Seminary, in which he received the Th.M. degree. Pastors he has included Emmanuel, Starkville, and Lakeview, Leland.

The Baths have two children, Diana, student at William Carey College, and Stephen, high school sophomore. Mrs. Bath has served as secretary in the Holmes-Leflore Association of Missions office for two years.

History In The Spotlight

By Anne McWilliams
I see her often at Morrison Heights Church in Clinton, where she is director of activities, but I would not have believed she was Jan Cossitt if the printed program had not plainly said so.

History was in the spotlight at the WMU Convention in Tupelo March 21-23 because Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union next year will be 100 years old. Jan in four monologues appeared in various sessions of the convention as four former state WMU presidents. In turn she was Mrs. J. L. Johnson, Mrs. A. J. Aven, Mrs. Ned Rice, and Mrs. J. T. Lyons.

After graduation from Northeast Junior College, Jan majored in speech at the W. Though this was the first WMU Convention she had attended, she said, "I think I am the youngest person ever to know so much Mississippi WMU history!"

To act out the lives of the former presidents she made a thorough study of their lives and work. Marjean Patterson, executive secretary, Mississippi WMU, wrote the script, but Jan added many original "ad libs and asides" to make the characters come alive. Marjean and Jan spent a day at the homes of Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Lyons, talking with them about the times when they were president. Jan listened to their voices and observed their mannerisms.

"I was born at Norfolk, Virginia, on December 30, 1842, the daughter of Thomas and Amelia Anna Toy. One of my school friends was a personable girl named Lottie Moon. As a matter of fact, she and my brother, Crawford, were engaged to be married."

This was Mrs. J. L. Johnson speaking. Jan was wearing an all-black costume — black dress, gloves, hat, and silk veil, — made by Mrs. Purser Hewitt, granddaughter of Mrs. Johnson, and loaned to Jan by Mrs. Tom Hudson, great-granddaughter of Mrs. Johnson.

Mrs. Johnson and her husband moved to Oxford, Mississippi in 1873, and she became the first WMU president when Mississippi WMU was organized in 1878. The first state WMU convention was at Grenada in 1879.

"Who ever would have thought that a girl from the small community of Black Hawk in Holmes County would be privileged to serve 21 years as president of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union!" That was Mrs. A. J. Aven, in figured dress and white shawl. Her husband taught Latin many years at Mississippi College.



Jan Cossitt as Mrs. A. J. Aven.

When Jan portrayed Mrs. Ned Rice, the "real Mrs. Ned Rice," age 89, was in the auditorium on the front row. Mrs. Rice was state WMU president from 1934 to 1943. She grew up in Charleston and continued to live there after her marriage. For 51 years she was president of the Charleston WMU. It was while she was president that Camp Garaywa became a reality.

Jan, as Mrs. Rice in flowered hat and fox fur stole said, "My, how I love the work and how I love the women!"

Mrs. J. T. Lyons has always lived in Pike County and has been a member of First Church, McComb since she was 12. She was state WMU president in the '50s. Jan wearing a white shawl and grey wig (99c variety) kept pushing her hair back in a manner characteristic of Mrs. Lyons. She talked about the many changes that have come about in Woman's Missionary Union during her life time, but she spoke with assurance of the future.

Jan said, "Each one of these women did not think of herself as leader material. Each one expressed surprise at being elected president. But all of them loved the work and threw themselves wholeheartedly into it. They all became great leaders even though they had not realized they had such capabilities within themselves."

Jan was born at New Albany. Her parents, Paul and Louise Cossitt, now live in Tupelo. After graduation from college she taught English and speech at Amory for a year, and then was drug education coordinator at Amory. When she came to Morrison Heights as activities director in 1975 she had been working as graduate assistant and admissions counselor at Mississippi College.

40 Ministers Attend Hospital Conference In Hattiesburg

The annual hospital conference for ministers was held March 24 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Forrest General Hospital, Hattiesburg, under direction of chaplain C. B. Hamlet.

The 40 ministers attending represented eight ministerial associations and were from Forrest, Lamar, Marion, Perry, and Pearl River counties.

The program personnel included Chaplain Luther Litchfield of the new Chemical Dependency Unit, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center; Chaplain Gordon Shamburger, Baptist Medical Center, who spoke on "Pas-

toral Care in the Hospital Setting"; Dr. George E. Wilkerson, who spoke on "Modern Concepts in Psychiatric Medicine"; Dr. William Gary Giles, president of the medical staff; and Freeman Parker, assistant director.

The conference concluded with a fellowship meal in the hospital cafeteria.

Retired Pastor Dies At Forest

Roger Henry Daniel, 225 Hill Street, Forest, retired Baptist minister, died at St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson on March 23, after an extended illness.

He had been in the ministry since 1936 and had pastored numerous churches in Mississippi, the most recent being High Hill in Smith County.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Annie Webb Daniel; one daughter, Mrs. Patricia Gregory, of Jackson; and two granddaughters, Melissa and Staci Gregory of Jackson. He was 72.

Devotional

A Risen Lord

By John Forsman, Pastor, Wade Church
Luke 24: 6, 36-48

As we approach this Easter season again we need to recall the reason the Christian church, and for that matter the world itself, has set this day apart for special celebration. It's a fact that much of the activity is unrelated to the true purpose of Easter, but that is so, I believe, because there is not enough emphasis placed upon why this is a special day.

Return with me and review if you will that long ago day. Despair gripped the very souls of the few who had followed the man Jesus. They had seen him cruelly murdered. They had placed his dead body in a tomb. They were aware that Roman soldiers guarded the entrance to that tomb. Truly a discouraging picture. Sadder still, but surely just as true, there is a whole world today with just this limited amount of knowledge about the events surrounding Easter.

Come with me further. Even though the world will not believe it, there is more, for the Bible teaches in Luke 18:27 that with God nothing is impossible. Some women came to the tomb early that Easter morning. They came to prepare the body of a dear friend. They found no body but an empty tomb. Here we find the real meaning of Easter. The Resurrection is the hope of all the ages for the believer.

The world cries, "Did Jesus rise?" I say to you the question should be, "Is Jesus risen?" It was Mary that the angel spoke to with the question, "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" (Luke 24:5). So, what does Easter mean to us today: He Rose or He Is Risen. He was or He is. Let me illustrate. Lazarus had died. His family and friends mourned his death. Jesus was called, but He delayed His coming in order that He might use the occasion to teach the people another truth. When Jesus arrived Lazarus was already in the tomb, but Jesus called Lazarus forth alive.

Lazarus ROSE from the grave, but he died again. He is not RISEN today. Jesus came forth from the grave and remains alive forevermore. HE IS RISEN! He is not a dead Jew who could have been crowned an earthly king but HE IS A RISEN LORD.

"IT'S DIFFICULT TO BE A CHRISTIAN IN PROFESSIONAL SPORTS BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURE TO WIN..."

says Kyle Rote, Jr., Superstar, center forward, Dallas Tornado soccer team.

Rote is one of 13 athletes featured in a series of TV films produced by the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission.

For complete listing of **The Athletes** write P.O. Box 12157 Fort Worth, TX 76116

Sunday School Lesson: Life And Work: For April 10

Magdalene, Witness Of The Risen Lord

By Bill Duncan, First, Long Beach

Magdala was a small town west of the Sea of Galilee. There was a woman who grew up there that became a great witness of Jesus Christ. Her name was Mary and, in order to keep down confusion, The Bible called her Mary of Magdala.

As a girl she had a difficult time growing up because of her emotional problems. Luke said that when she was saved seven demons came out of her. Most people identify the demons with problems that caused people to be unable to understand her. Most likely she was lonely, hungry for genuine concern and completely shut out by a indifferent and hostile society. These facts drove the girl into despair.

We do not know how and when Mary Magdalene met Jesus. We do not know how he healed her. But from the encounter, healing came into Mary's soul. The demons had been cast out—all seven of them.

Mary was possessed with a new power. It was the love of a patient for her physician. It was the love of a person grateful for healing after a long and tragic illness. It was the love of one who became a faithful disciple.

Mary became a faithful witness. She was a constant reminder to the people of Jesus' healing power. She was also a reminder to the people of the lofty position where Jesus placed women. There was one who inspired the most discouraged, despondent, defeated, and lonely to feel a new sense of worth and eternal destiny.

Her most remembered witness was to the fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Mary was in the small group that stood around the cross when Jesus died. That scene was enough to destroy a healthy mind but she endured because of her love and faith in Jesus Christ. She had been a part of that sad funeral procession. She had wept bitter tears as they wrapped Jesus' body in the yards of linen bandages. Because the Sabbath was coming soon, everything was done in haste.

Early on the first day, Mary arose to go to the tomb and place spices on the body of Jesus. Mary and two others with her were well on the way when they remembered that the men had rolled a huge stone in front of the tomb. But they went on, dreaming that something could be done.

When they arrived, the stone had been rolled away. The soldiers were gone who had guarded the grave. Inside the tomb the grave clothes lay as if the body had merely evaporated. What had happened?

The women hurried back to report

the frightening turn of events. At first the apostles could not believe the report. Some of the disciples returned with Mary to check for themselves.

Mary was checking the area around the tomb, when she sat down and began to cry. As she cried, a figure stood beside her. Without really seeing who it was, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Then she heard the figure speak her name, "Mary," as only Jesus could speak her name.

In that moment hope swept away the despair and gloom. This was no dead person. This was Jesus and he was alive. It was more than she could realize. Her reply was, "Rabboni." The expression of the voice in calling him by a beloved name was the evidence of joy. The name had come to be used of God. It may have been close to what Thomas would later say, "My Lord and my God."

Mary fell before Jesus in awe. Probably by grasping his feet, she began to cling to him. "Touch me not," said Jesus. Literally, he told her to stop clinging to him. He was not suggesting that her embrace would stop the process of glorification. He wanted her to experience even greater things. He was going to give her a task. Mary could not linger with Jesus. Each had

an assignment to carry out. Notice the message, "Go to my brothers and say to them, 'I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.'" "My Father has become your Father." Jesus was describing a new relationship that existed between him and his former disciples. By their relationship with Jesus, they shared his relationship with God. He had risen but he was not there to stay; he was there as one in transit.

Mary was obedient to his command. When she came to the disciples she said, "I have seen the Lord." She reported the fact of the resurrection before the message. She was the first to have seen the Lord and the first to bear witness to the risen Lord. Significantly the first to see and bear witness to the risen Lord was a woman.

The news that Mary carried challenges people to faith. The resurrection must be accepted by the eyes of faith, just as eternal life comes through faith. Jesus has risen from the grave. No matter what skeptics may say, the affirmation of personal witnesses, the testimony of the Scriptures, and our personal experience combine to declare his resurrection. We know that his body was not stolen. Just as Mary said, "I have seen the Lord." Christianity means knowing Jesus. It does not mean knowing about Jesus.



Parents Of Missionaries' Luncheon

Parents of Mississippi missionaries were guests of honor at a luncheon on March 22, during the WMU Convention at Hattiesburg Church, Tupelo. Those present were front row, left to right: Dr. and Mrs. R. A. Herrington, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Myers, Mrs. W. B. Alexander, Mrs. R. C. McGlamery, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Haggard, Mrs. P. D. Lee, and Mr. and Mrs. M. C. McDaniel. Back row, left to right: Mrs. Stanley McPhail, Mrs. L. E. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Porter, Mrs. Charles Deavers, and Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Rankin.

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